

Filtration Systems at DBMS Aim to Keep Harbor Clean

The Duxbury Bay Maritime School has begun work on a new storm water management infiltration system designed to capture polluted rainwater before it runs into Duxbury Harbor.

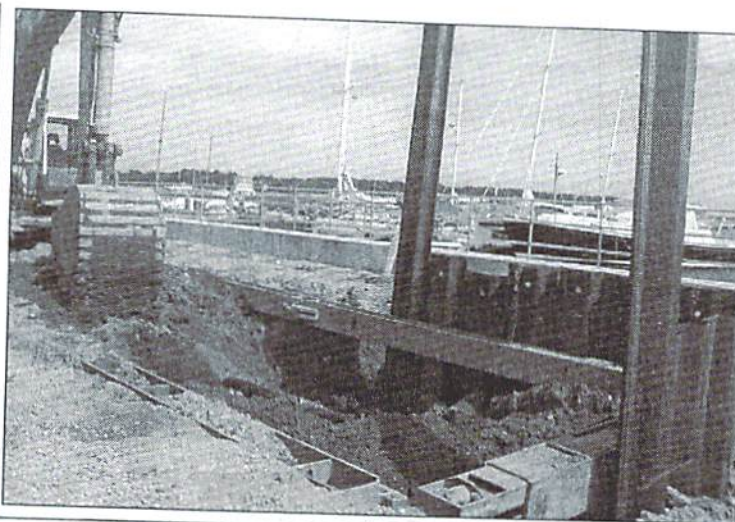
The system is designed to catch the first inch of rainwater runoff known as the "first flush", said DBMS Executive Director Ned Lawson.

"That is where most of the contaminants are."

The infiltration system works similarly to a septic system, capturing the first inch of rainfall and filtering it through sand and dirt. After the first inch is trapped, the rest of the rainfall, which is much cleaner, will overflow into the harbor, Lawson said.

The cost estimate for the DBMS system is \$200,000, which has already been raised by DBMS, according to Lawson. Work began last week and is expected to be completed in six to eight weeks.

"We'll use the system as an example in our marine ecology class to teach students what they can do to keep the harbor clean," Lawson said.



The town is working on a similar system for the Washington Street area. According to Conservation Agent Joe Grady, the town received a \$25,000 grant from Coastal Zone Management to complete design and construction specifications for the system.

ATP Environmental, which has designed systems in Falmouth and Sandwich, is currently working on the design. Then the town will have to apply for grants to cover construction and installation of the system, Grady said. The process will take approximately one

year, he estimated.

One potential source of financing is Shellfish Restoration Funding, which could provide up to \$100,000 for construction of the system, Grady said. Some town money may be required, or the town can provide in-kind services, he said.

The town's infiltration system actually involves both town and private land, and may be completed in separate steps.

State funds can't be used for private property, Grady said, so the town may start the town portion first, then start the private portion when federal funds become available.